

For Immediate Release

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*Washington, D.C.* – Congressman Sires praised President Obama's new proposal to strengthen our nation's community colleges. Sires has been an active supporter of investing in community college since his days as Speaker of the New Jersey Assembly.

"I have consistently supported the great work done by our community colleges, and I will be a proud supporter of President Obama's plan to invest in community colleges" Sires said. "It is the key to preparing more students and workers for jobs, aiding those at risk for dropping out of school, and providing job training and educational opportunities to help speed our economic recovery."

Core elements of the President's plan include creating a community college fund to encourage partnering with businesses and industry, funding innovative programs to help students complete their educations, and upgrading facilities across the country. The plan will also create an online education program, which will drastically expand educational opportunities by offering freely available online programs.

"The President's plan is transformational for our ability to provide access to affordable education. In these hard economic times, we must help students and workers to compete for high-wage jobs, in high-growth industries. I applaud the President for his efforts to improve and expand affordable education through investments in community colleges." # # #